

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 AGR-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PRS-01

/083 W

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R 011505Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8764

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA BEEF EXPORTS

REF: A) GABORONE 0446AND PREVIOUS; B) GABORONE 1758

1. AT SEPTEMBER 29 RECEPTION, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MASISI RAISED WITH CHARGE' AND EMBOFF POSSIBILITY OF EXPORTING BOTSWANA BEEF TO UNITED STATES. MASISI USED ARGUMENTS PRESENTED EARLIER BY GOB ECONOMIC ADVISER DEAN (SEE REF), EMPHASIZING POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION. HE ADDED THAT WHILE BOTSWANA WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR GENEROUS USAID, ANOTHER EFFECTIVE FORM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE THE PURCHASE OF BOTSWANA BEEF -- EVEN THOUGH IT WERE IN SMALL QUANTITIES.

2. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON, THAT WE MIGHT EXPECT A RESPONSE SOON, AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT THE MINISTER'S REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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3. IN CONVERSATION OF SAME DATE, EMBOFF LEARNED FROM UK

EMBASSY REP THAT BRUSSELS TALKS BETWEEN EEC AND BOTSWANA
BEEFTEAM HAD NOT GONE AS BADLY AS MANY HAD ORIGINALLY FEARED
(SEE REF) AND THAT SOME AGREEMENT PERMITTING FURTHER
EXPORTS TO EEC WOULD BE REACHED BEFORE DECEMBER EXPIRATION
OF PRESENT ARRANGEMENT. BEEFTEAM RETURNS TO BRUSSELS
OCTOBER 3 TO CONTINUE TALKS.

4. AGAIN, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT USG CONSIDER FAVORABLY
THE BOTSWANA REQUEST ON BASIS OF BENEFICIAL POLITICAL IMPACT
WHICH IMPORTATION OF EVEN SMALL QUANTITIES OF BEEF WOULD HAVE
HERE. US IMPORTATION WOULD BE FURTHER CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF OUR
SUPPORT FOR BOTSWANA'S DEMOCRATIC AND NONRACIAL POLICIES,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS VULNERABLE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF
DISPROPORTIONATE DEPENDENCY ON SAG.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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